Mortal Kombat: The Journey Begins
Transcript
V 3.0 10/19/2011

TITLES
appear over a montage of fights from the video intercutting between a flying dragon while Rayden narrates.

RAYDEN
For a thousand years a great war has been fought once a generation between the warriors of the realm of Earth and the realm of Outworld. Each battle takes place on an island between the two realms. There are no armies - only single warriors fighting face-to-face in a secret tournament. But though the number of warriors is very small the stakes are even less. The fate of the realm of Earth hangs at the balance. For 5 centuries Outworld has won every tournament, nine in a row. They must not win the 10th tournament. They must not win Mortal Kombat -

MAIN TITLE
The dragon flies into a ship's sail and forms into an emblem then the Main title - a rotating, burning Dragon symbol of Mortal Kombat fame.

RAYDEN
Three warriors have been chosen above all others as the last best hope for the realm of Earth. Liu Kang, trained by village monks; Lt. Sonya Blade, Special Forces; and Johnny Cage, famous Hollywood star. These 3 do not why they have been chosen for this mystical and mysterious tournament. None realizes that this boat is taking them to the greatest adventure of their lives. None of them yet understands the power of the magic that surrounds the tournament of Mortal Kombat - or why so many warriors who came before them failed.

The three warriors are aboard the Dragon Wing ï¿½ Johnny is vomiting, Liu is meditating, and Sonya is trying to get her radio to work.

SONYA BLADE
Able-baker to Zulu1, Able to Zulu, do you copy Zulu?

JOHNNY CAGE
I think I'm gonna hurl.

LIU KANG
Sea-sick huh?

JOHNNY CAGE
What gave it away - was it my green skin tone or my delightful odor?

SONYA BLADE
Do either of you know where I can find the captain?

LIU KANG
No idea. But why are you looking for him?

SONYA BLADE
Lt. Sonya Blade, Special Forces. We got a tip a wanted man was going to be on this ship. Know anything about it?

JOHNNY CAGE
Yea, I'm a wanted man. Everyone wants me (vomits). I'm Johnny Cage, the film actor... oh, oh I'm sorry.

SONYA BLADE
I don't watch movies.

JOHNNY CAGE
Not even mine?

LIU KANG
The tournament is by invitation only. How did you get on this boat if you're not a competitor?

SONYA BLADE
I walked on. I've gotta find the captain. My radio is on the fritz.

A storm brews. Sub-Zero enters.

LIU KANG
There wasn't a cloud in the sky a minute ago.

SONYA BLADE
Out of my way!

SUB-ZERO
This hold is off limits. No one may enter!

SONYA BLADE
Look I just need to use the shipï¿½s radio, now move!

Sub-Zero freezes her arm.

SONYA BLADE
Ah, ah. My arm is freezing.

Shang Tsung enters.

SHANG TSUNG
Can I be of assistance Lt. Blade?

SONYA BLADE
Are you the captain of this tub?

SHANG TSUNG
I am Shang Tsung, the tournament master and the emperor's adversary.

SONYA BLADE
Yea, well I don't care about your emperor and I'm not interested in your tournament. I've got a job to do.

SHANG TSUNG
You think you're pursuing a dangerous criminal? But in fact you have been chosen to participate in our great tournament, Mortal Kombat, just like these gentleman.

Shang lifts them in a power twister and drops them.

JOHNNY CAGE
This is a disaster!

SONYA BLADE
Chosen, by who?

SHANG TSUNG
You'll know that soon enough. Oh, and your radio won't work where we're going, Sonya.

JOHNNY CAGE
Guess he gave you the cold shoulder, haha.

LIU KANG
This is no time for jokes guys.

JOHNNY CAGE
Oh tell that to Mr. Wizard and the popsicle.

SONYA BLADE
Oh why doesn't my radio work? I should be able to pull in something, anything. A lot of weird stuff going on here.

LIU KANG
In my village there's an ancient temple. All my life the old monks told me stories about the great tournament. I thought they were just fairy tales.

SHANG TSUNG
(to Sub-Zero, with Scorpion watching Sub-Zero incognito)
These three are our most dangerous adversaries. If they fail to reach the island because of some tragic accident Outworld will win the 10th tournament (Sub-Zero leaves). Scorpion, to secure a place in the hallowed victory hall of your clan, you must kill Sub-Zero yourself. If the three warriors from Earth kill Sub-Zero you'll never your chance. Help Sub-Zero now then you can personally kill him later.

Scorpion follows Sub-Zero as Shang goes into his cabin.

JOHNNY CAGE
Listen we were thinking maybe we should hear more of those fairy tales you were talking about.

LIU KANG
Fairy tales? There's one right behind you.

JOHNNY CAGE
Hey man, you should have your thermostat adjusted you know.

Sub-Zero and the three fight. Scorpion joins them. Sonya neckgrabs Sub-Zero and throws him into the ship as Scorpion shoots his ropedart ("Get Over Here") at Sonya and captures her but Rayden zaps a bolt through it, knocking Scorpion into the crash site Sub-Zero went through and materializes.

LIU KANG
Lord Rayden!

JOHNNY CAGE
Another real life fairy tale?

LIU KANG
No, he's God of Thunder and the Protector of the realm of Earth.

SONYA BLADE
Oh like that makes any sense.

JOHNNY CAGE
Hey who cares if it makes any sense?

Rayden zaps him.

RAYDEN
You should care Johnny Cage. Silence! (Shang enters) Shang Tsung!

SHANG TSUNG
My, Lord Rayden, what an unexpected surprise? To what do we owe the honor of your visit?

RAYDEN
You sent your warriors against mine!

SHANG TSUNG
I sent you one. Perhaps they were simply engaging in a little warm-up exercise.

JOHNNY CAGE
Warm-up exercise? Tell that to the ice cube.

RAYDEN
It was an ambush, strictly forbidden by the rules of Mortal Kombat. See that it does not happen again!

SHANG TSUNG
Of course, my sincerest apologies.

Shang exits.

RAYDEN
That should not have happened.

JOHNNY CAGE
Tell me about it. Who is that guy?

RAYDEN
Shang Tsung is a great sorcerer. His power is second only to the emperor of Outworld.

LIU KANG
In the legends Outworld is a realm that exists on another plane. It is separated from Earth by a mystical doorway. Only the tournament Mortal Kombat can unlock it.

JOHNNY CAGE

Wait a minute. I got invited to this secret tournament to prove I am the best. But now you're telling me we're on our way to fight people from a parallel universe? Hah, I don't think that's in my contract, alright?

RAYDEN (over fight)
You have no choice. A thousand years ago Shang Tsung became the tournament master by challenging the Earth's finest fighters from the Temple of the Order of Light. Shang Tsung easily defeated the students of the temple master. In the final bout he met the Temple Master himself, a man of great skill and wisdom. But Shang Tsung had perfected his own dark skills over many centuries. He easily overcame the Temple Master's attacks. It was as if he could look into the man's thoughts and read what he could do next. It soon became apparent that Shang Tsung possessed just such dark magic - the ability to probe the human soul and know its secret desires and fears. When the Temple Master realized what was happening to him he cleared his mind. Shang Tsung 's dark gifts overcame the Temp Master's courage and skill. The monk could not understand the great tournament of Mortal Kombat had changed forever. From that day forth Mortal Kombat would be a ruthless contest for the domination for the realm of Earth, a battle where cunning and magic would overcome honor and experience and change it to treacherous, desperate and deadly. And that sad day also revealed the secrets of Shang Tsung 's terrible power - his ability to steal the soul of his vanquished enemy. (he steals the soul of the Temple Master)

Back to Ship-

RAYDEN
Whether you like it or not Johnny Cage and you Sonya Blade and you Liu Kang have each been chosen to participate in this great tournament. If you lose it will be the last Mortal Kombat.

LIU KANG
All my teachings, all the stories, they were true.

RAYDEN
If you lose the portals to the realm of Earth will be thrown open to the armies of Outworld. The Earth will be destroyed. The fate of the Earth is in your hands. Only you mortals, the best fighters of your generation, can stop this from happening. You must succeed where they have failed. You must win this final tournament. You must win Mortal Kombat.

Next Day, Wide Shot of Shang Tsungï¿½s Island-

RAYDEN
This is Shang Tsung's island. Never forget that he is a sorcerer capable of formidable magic. Nothing that you see here is what it seems. The island's peace and beauty are only an illusion. Shang Tsung will have you watched. You will never be truly alone. Beware. Be wary of all that surrounds you. Danger lurks around every corner. You must be prepared!

At the entrance of the palace the three warriors are surrounded by other warriors from Earth and a few nomads-

JOHNNY CAGE
Yep, once again I'm the best looking guy here.

SONYA BLADE

Stop gloating.

LIU KANG
Hey, check it out.

Shang Tsung exits from the palace to talk to the warriors.

SHANG TSUNG
Welcome to the great tournament of Mortal Kombat. I am Shang Tsung, tournament master and your humble host.

JOHNNY CAGE
Do you think prince charming wants us to bow down and grabble just alittle?

SONYA BLADE
Look who's talking Mr. Modesty himself.

Goro peaks out from the shadows of the caverns.

JOHNNY CAGE
Whoa did u see that?

SONYA BLADE
See what?

JOHNNY CAGE
That guy had four...

SHANG TSUNG
You have all been carefully chosen to compete in the greatest of all tournaments. In a couple of hours the tournament will begin. Until that time make yourselves at home on our little island. Enjoy an evening of peace and tranquility. It may be your last.

JOHNNY CAGE
Haha, what a joke. "It may be your last!" Who's he kidding! I was born to win this tournament.

SONYA BLADE
You were born to annoy people.

JOHNNY CAGE
Hey, tell that to my fans. I'm gonna prove that what I do up on the big silver screen isn't fake. This stuff will work against anybody.

SONYA BLADE
Stop babbling and check this out. He's been shadowed by the other who fought us on the boat.

Sub-Zero is followed by Scorpion.

JOHNNY CAGE
Uh, maybe he wants an autograph?

They walk throughout a peaceful garden.

RAYDEN

Sub-Zero is from the clan of the Lin Kuei. There are very few of them left in Outworld.

JOHNNY CAGE
At last some good news.

LIU KANG
But the other one there was something strange about him...

JOHNNY CAGE
Yea, so what else is new.

LIU KANG
I felt something else, an aura.

RAYDEN
Very good, Liu Kang. He is Scorpion, from another ninja clan of Outworld. But he is also a specter.

SONYA BLADE
That's like a ghost? You said this fight was among mortals, how can we fight a ghost?

Rayden (over fight)
Specters return to the living in their mortal form. (Liu: Why?) They come back to avenge something in a former life. In the past Scorpion and Sub-Zero were bitter enemies from rival clans. Their clans had often fought on the plains of Outworld to decide who trained the best warriors. Thus one day Scorpion met Sub-Zero in a battle to the death. They were evenly matched and for a long time neither had the advantage. For a brief moment it seemed as if Scorpion's great speed would overcome Sub-Zero, but his opponent's cunning was more than a match for the ninja master. Each fighter possessed a special weapon, the closely guarded secrets of their clan. Each warrior was forced to use these most special and deadly weapons. ("Come here"). Watch out for Sub-Zero! (back to garden) as a result of Scorpion's defeat he could not enter the sacred victory hall of the dead until he had once more redeemed the honor of his clan. He returned as a specter with some of his old skills and some new ones. But if he again loses his soul will be hurled into oblivion.

SONYA BLADE
Then why did he help Sub-Zero just now?

RAYDEN
He must vanquish Sub-Zero himself or his soul will be lost forever. All of Shang Tsung's emissaries fear him and do his bidding. Even now they're watching, plotting against you. If they fail him Shang Tsung will steal their souls and enslave them. Even Goro, the mightiest of them all, lives in dread of Shang Tsung's dark magic.

JOHNNY CAGE
Hold it, you keep saying Shang Tsung stung is a demon sorcerer?

RAYDEN
A very powerful one.

LIU KANG

In my temple I was taught that only mortals can compete in the great tournament.

RAYDEN
Shang Tsung is mortal. Despite of his great age and enormous powers, he can be destroyed. Long ago before Shang first entered the tournament it was a competition of honor. It was hosted by the Temple of the Order of Light.

LIU KANG
That's my temple and my village back home.

RAYDEN
Yes they were an enlightened order of men who believed that a tournament was preferable to total warfare as a means of solving differences. Each monk was trained to be not only a philosopher and holy man but a skilled fighter.

LIU KANG
They still are, they trained me. I thought they were a bunch of silly old men telling crazy stories.

SONYA BLADE
That's understandable. I'd think the same time, anyone would.

JOHNNY CAGE
Hey I'm standing here and I still don't believe it.

SONYA BLADE
So how did this Shang Tsung get control of the tournament?

RAYDEN
For many many generations warriors from the two realms were evenly matched. And no one dreamed that one realm could win 10 Mortal Kombats in a row. But Shang Tsung was sent by the emperor of Outworld. He brought his formidable dark magic to Mortal Kombat. And now the tournament has become a desperate struggle for the survival of the realm of Earth.

SONYA BLADE
You're saying this sorcerer can help Outworld win Mortal Kombat. Does that mean you're going to help us?

RAYDEN
Since I am not mortal I cannot participate in the tournament directly. I can only help you to realize your true potential.

JOHNNY CAGE
So you're going to teach me how to shoot a frozen ice stream from my hands or suck somebody's soul from his body? I don't think so.

RAYDEN
No Johnny Cage, that is not the answer.

LIU KANG
Then how can we possibly win?

SONYA BLADE
And why have we been chosen at all?

RAYDEN
You have been chosen because you are the best. You will win by facing your fears and believing in yourselves.

JOHNNY CAGE
Ah sure, thunder gods, demon sorcerers, specters, what's there to be afraid of?

Goro appears.

SONYA BLADE
Look!

JOHNNY CAGE
That's the guy I saw, Goro!

RAYDEN
Ah yes. Goro, Prince of Shokan.

SONYA BLADE
He has 4 arms!

JOHNNY CAGE
That's what I was trying to tell you!

RAYDEN
Goro commands the legions of nomads, fierce subterranean creatures who obey his every command. Like Sub-Zero and Scorpion, they will try to stop you from winning the tournament. 500 years ago Shang Tsung had won 9 victories in a row. The realm of Earth faced the unimaginable horror of the emperor's cruelty. Only one champion could stop it, a humble monk from the Temple of the Order of Light, Kung Lao.

LIU KANG
My ancestor!

RAYDEN
Yes. Youï¿½re his direct descendant. Shang Tsung used all of his tricks, all of his dark powers against him. But in the end goodness and strength prevailed, Kung Lao won.

JOHNNY CAGE
So we can win! How? Why?

RAYDEN
The emperor of Outworld was very unhappy. He banished Shang Tsung to slave in the cobalt mines of Shokan. There, many years later, he met Prince Goro.

SONYA BLADE
That's a prince?

RAYDEN (over fight)
Where he comes from, yes. His father was ruler of the subterranean kingdom of Shokan and the realm of Outworld. In Shokan there is only one law - survival of the fittest and the most ruthless. On one particular day each year it was customary to pay tribute to the king. Durak, Goro's older brother, decided to offer his father the rarest, most precious object in the underground kingdom

of Shokan - a jewel Meeka egg from the deepest cavern in all of Shokan. When he returned to offer the gift to his father Goro decided he wanted to pay tribute with the egg as well. It was decided that he should fight for it. Durak easily obtained the upper hand in the battle. Goro pleaded for Durak to save him, to not let him fall. Durak took the jewel Meeka egg from his brother and helped him up from the cliff. The battle was over. Durak was the victor. He could now pay tribute to his father but Goro was not finished. It was now Durak's turn to plead for help but Goro told Durak to grab the egg and hand it to him or it would be lost forever and neither of them would be able to pay tribute to their father. Young Goro looked down at his brother dangling above the bottomless well of darkness. Goro presented his father with a magnificent gift and the king was very pleased and proud because his son had become ruthless and deceiving and that was the Shokan way. From that day forth he was successor to the throne, Goro, Prince of the Shokan. Shang Tsung promised to share power with the young Shokan prince, divide up the spoils of war after the realm of Earth had been captured and won. He brought Goro to the next tournament. Our four-armed champion had won each Mortal Kombat since that time, nine in a row.

LIU KANG
But first he had to beat my ancestor, Kung Lao. He was the champion of Mortal Kombat. He defeated Shang Tsung. How could he lose?

RAYDEN (over fight)
Goro was simply too great an adversary for the human Kung Lao. Shang Tsung's promise of unlimited power made the four-arm prince even more ruthless than ever. To every champion of Mortal Kombat a very special gift is given, the gift of youth and vigor as long as they are victorious. So it was that Kung Lao did not age in the new year since he had defeated Shang Tsung the sorcerer. As his friends grew older and weaker he retained all his strength and skill - no one from the realm of Earth could defeat your ancestor and it cannot be denied that Kung Lao was a magnificent fighter, perhaps the best the realm of Earth had ever seen. But no one from the realm of Earth had ever seen a creature like Goro. Punishment that would have killed a mere man simply angered the Shokan warrior but Kung Lao didn't give up on his attack, he was relentless. Still Goro was an engine of destruction; nothing was going to get in his way. Once the Shokan had Kung Lao firmly in his grasp, there was little Kung Lao could do. There are limits to the strength of even the greatest champion. It was soon over, Earth had lost to the realm of Outworld.

SHANG TSUNG
Excellent, flawless victory. I will take his warrior soul. Finish him!

Goro chops him to the neck.

At island entrance-

JOHNNY CAGE
Goro killed him?

SONYA BLADE
If a champion like Kung Lao couldn't win how can we?

RAYDEN
First you must understand the most important thing. Mortal Kombat doesn't mean death but life. Mortal men and women competing for what they believe in. Every one of you has the potential to change the world and the outcome of

this tournament. You three can do this but you must not be afraid and you must be ready for new unexpected challenges.

JOHNNY CAGE
Everything I've seen today is unexpected.

LIU KANG
You've given us much to think about Lord Rayden but not enough time to learn the lessons well.

RAYDEN
Even less time than you think I'm afraid.

Goro commands the legions of nomads from within a cave.

GORO
Argh, attack!

The nomads charge at the warriors.

RAYDEN
Once the tournament begins I can no longer help you.

LIU KANG
Watch out!

SONYA BLADE
Watch your backs!

They battle the nomads.

GORO
Don't let them escape!

JOHNNY CAGE
In all my movies the bad guys sneak up behind me. You'd think these guys would try something new huh?

LIU KANG
Maybe if we ignore them they'll go away?

Cage/Liu
Then again maybe not!

Rayden appears.

JOHNNY CAGE
You know he has a great sense of timing for a thunder god.

RAYDEN
Shang Tsung!

The island shakes. Shang enters the area.

SHANG TSUNG
Ah, Lord Rayden, such a lively night. I was out enjoying the garden. What's this, you seem upset?

RAYDEN
Once again you defy the sacred rules of the tournament for your own power and glory.

SHANG TSUNG
Rules, especially sacred rules, were made to be broken.

JOHNNY CAGE
Hey the only thing that's gonna be broken around here is you!

Nomads charge.

SHANG TSUNG
But it doesn't really matter now. No more fun and games. The real contest will force you to face skills and powers beyond your wildest imagination. You have no hope of winning so I can only employ you to lose with grace and dignity.

SONYA BLADE
I only see one loser here pal.

JOHNNY CAGE
Yea and she's not talking about us.
(Sub-Zero enters)
Did it just get colder or is it just me?

SUB-ZERO
Strangle them, all of them!

SHANG TSUNG
Prepare yourselves, let Mortal Kombat begin!

RAYDEN
It has begun!
(over fight highlights)
From now on you will face formidable adversaries. Each opponent will have strange powers, incredible strength. Each has the experience of 100 battles. Some like Shang Tsung use power for magic. But each of these opponents can be defeated. Look into your souls and you'll find hidden powers. The knowledge and the skill to win Mortal Kombat is within. Now you must find the will. Prepare yourselves for Mortal Kombat, The Movie!

BIOS
CREDITS
JOURNEY BEHIND THE SCENES OF MORTAL KOMBAT: THE MOVIE